

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3304
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FROM AMBASSADOR CARTER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25, 1978

REF: GENEVA 12548 (NOTAL)

1. IN A WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION ABOUT THE WORLD CONFER-
ENCE LAST EVENING (17 AUGUST) TANZANIAN PERMANENT REP
SALIM AND LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS PREDICTED
THAT THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE MIGHT BE TEMPERED AS A
RESULT OF THE INSISTENCE OF AFRICAN NATIONS.
2. DENNIS SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION DRAFTS HE HAS SEEN SO
FAR SUGGEST THAT THE ARABS ARE BACKING AWAY FROM AS HARD
A LINE AS THEY PURSUED IN '75 AND I QUESTIONED WHY THE
AFRICANS WERE NOT CIRCULATING THEIR OWN RESOLUTIONS.
SALIM REMINDED THAT BOTH NIGERIA AND GHANA WERE ON THE
DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND THAT AFRICANS HAD BEEN MAKING
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A POINT AROUND THE CORRIDORS THAT THEY DID NOT WANT THIS
ISSUE TO SPLIT THE CONFERENCE; THAT THE GREATER ATTENTION
SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON APARTHEID.

3. MY INSTINCTS DO NOT LEAD ME TO BE AS SANGUINE AS
SALIM AND DENNIS AND SO I WILL NEED TO HEAR MORE OPINIONS
BEFORE BECOMING CONVINCED THAT THE AFRICANS CAN HOLD THE

LINE. I, OF COURSE, WAS MOST SUPPORTIVE AND ENCOURAGING IN MY INTERVENTIONS WITH THE TWO DELEGATES AT A SMALL DINNER (JUST THE THREE OF US) AND WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED.

4. FYI: MY TALKATIVE DINNER GUESTS GAVE SOME ADDITIONAL INSIGHT AS TO THE SELECTION OF THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN. IT SEEMS THAT THE AFRICANS FIRST CHOICE WAS THE NEW NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT THAT HE DECLINED AND IN POINT OF FACT DID NOT ARRIVE AT THE CONFERENCE UNTIL WEDNESDAY, 16 AUGUST. SECOND CHOICE WAS THE GHANAIA FOREIGN MINISTER AND HE ALSO DECLINED. SALIM REPORTS THAT DENNIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A THIRD CHOICE IF DENNIS HAD BEEN PRESENT ON MONDAY, BUT OF COURSE HE DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL TUESDAY. THE DELEGATES (DENNIS/SALIM) WERE UNANIMOUS IN BEMOANING THE ULTIMATE SELECTION BUT INDICATED THEY WOULD DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO, IN THE AFRICAN TRADITION, "HOLD HIS HAND UP". END FYI. SORENSON

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